ANNUAL REPORT

of

PUBLIC LIBRARY

1944

STONEHAM MASSACHUSETTS

REPORT OF TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC LIBRARY

To the Citizens of Stoneham:

The Trustees of the Public Library for the Town of Stoneham take pleasure in presenting herewith the eighty-sixth annual report.

The physical property of the Library has been cared for in the usual manner. Drains from the water spouts on either side of the north door have been opened and cleaned. The lantern in the cupola broken in one of our severe storms has been repaired and is again in position. Plans are being made to install storm windows for the librarian's room and the work-room. The shrubbery has been trimmed when the occasion required it. Hot water connections have been made in the basement lavatory for the convenience of the Red Cross workers in Library Hall. The Hall has been used by the Red Cross surgical dressing group throughout the year.

A very successful "Book Week" was held in November. The Summer Reading Project for the children proved interesting. Some of the publishing houses lent original drawings for book illustrations and attractive speakers drew large groups of listeners.

Nearly five hundred books were sent from the Library to Fort Devens. These books were contributed by Stoneham people and were transported to Fort Devens by Red Cross Motor Corps. Two new flags were secured during the year.

Visitors from neighboring towns consider our children's room a model one. The Trustees have been able to furnish wood for the fireplace in co-operation with Mrs. Bertha E. Houston, who makes this children's room so delightful. Apple tree wood has been donated by one of our townspeople.

Our magazine list has been appreciably increased. However, in view of the fact that the expense for fuel was greater last winter than was anticipated, in order to keep within our budget, we were obliged to reduce the amount of money spent for books. A new typewriter is needed and the expense for this item is included in the budget.

There is a need of redecorating the entire Library. The executors of the will of the late Miss Annie H. Brown have given us assurance that they will be able to help out on this item of expense without an appropriation at Town Meeting in March. The work will be done sometime in 1945.

The Trustees wish to thank the townspeople for their courtesy and co-operation during the year 1944 and again invite suggestions or recommendations. We also express appreciation to Miss Martha A. Jackson and all members of the staff for their faithful services.

For the following year the Trustees request the appropriation by the Town of $9,275.

The report of the Librarian follows.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES H. CHASE, Chairman.
RUTH H. MERRIFIELD.
FREDERICK P. HANFORD.
FRED A. LAWSON.
GEORGE A. PACKARD.
ALICE V. PEYTON, Secretary.

Report of Librarian

To the Trustees of the Stoneham Public Library:

I present the eighty-sixth annual report of the Stoneham Public Library for the year ending December 31, 1944.

In the interest of conservation, I am making a shorter report than usual.

This has been the busiest year in the history of our library in regard to service and in the demand for books of many types.

Through the co-operation of the public, we have been able to send books and magazines to the soldiers and sailors at camps and hospitals.

A deposit of books has been maintained at the Home for Aged People through the year.

Gifts of magazines and books have been received from associations and individuals.

The Stoneham Garden Club and other friends have given flowers and plants to the Library.

We have been favored with interesting exhibits this year and some articles were shown which were sent home by soldiers: A Russian exhibit by Lawrence Buell; photographs and jewelry from Panama and South America by Richard Lamb; paper money, coins, dolls and other souvenirs from foreign countries by Gale Kellinger, sent by her father; articles recently brought home by Russell Chase from Alaska and Canada shown by his daughter Barbara. Other exhibits in the Adult Reading Room were: hand wrought metal work in copper and silver by Edward Anderson; shell work, jewelry and ornaments by Mrs. Marguerite Gray; photographs of the cranberry industry on Cape Cod and in Washington and Oregon with the products and by-products by Mrs. Muriel Travers; Sea moss, illustrating the gathering of it was shown in both the adult and junior departments by E. L. Patch Co.

"Book Week" and the "Spring Book Festival" were again observed for adults by a display of posters and new books with an immediate increased circulation, showing the public's interest and appreciation.

At Christmas, Miss Lillian Hunt, a Stoneham artist, decorated the bulletin boards and glass case in the Adult Reading Room with scenes suitable for the season.

Childrens' Room

The Children's Librarian, Mrs. Bertha Houston, spoke to School Councils, Scout Troops and Church Clubs during the year.

The Story Hour for younger children has been held every Saturday morning with a large attendance.

This year there have been thirty-two school room book deposits.

Exhibits loaned by various people were: perfume bottles by Joan Cleary; articles from Russia by Mrs. Alexander Samoiloff; handicraft by Girl Scouts; hand made coach and furniture by Fred Nickerson; art work by Junior High School; minerals by Miss Idella Wallace; boat model by E. L. Patch Co.; articles from Pacific Islands, South America and Central America by the Children's Museum; interesting objects from Alaska by Barbara Chase; character dolls by Mrs. Earle Andrews of Winchester.

The "Spring Book Festival" was observed by a display of new books and original drawings of illustrations.

The Summer Reading Project this year was an International Club. For six weeks the boys and girls read about different coun-

tries. Ten books were required to be read by each. Poster pictures of England, Russia, China, North America and many South American countries were made by Junior High School pupils and displayed through the summer. One boy and one girl each received a book for reading and reporting the largest number of books. Pins with red, white and blue ribbons and a club card of membership were given to each member. One hundred sixty-seven finished the course.

Boys and girls of the fifth and sixth grades from all of the schools have come to the Library with their teachers—each grade for four successive weeks, one period a week—for instruction in the use of the library, especially reference books and the card catalogue.

In "Book Week", a short story contest was again held with thirteen books given as prizes by the Library. Mrs. Merrill of Melrose, a finger painting teacher, spoke and gave demonstrations to classes from the Junior High School. Many Girl Scouts and Brownie Troops attended—about two hundred boys and girls. Miss Mary Reardon, a well-known Boston portrait painter and illustrator, gave a talk to eighty-five boys and girls from the fifth and sixth grades and sketched for them, some of the characters from two of the books that she had illustrated. She also gave little sketches and autographs to the children.

During Christmas week special Christmas stories were told and Christmas music played.

A tree, Christmas pictures and Santa Claus with his toys gave a joyous appearance to the room.

Staff

Martha A. Jackson, Librarian; H. Elizabeth Symonds, Assistant Librarian; Bertha E. Houston in charge of Children's Room; Margaret Golding, Assistant and Shirley Crane, Dorothy Whittemore, Ruth Jenkins and Beverly Allen, Junior Part Time Assistants.

American Library Association Form of Statistics

For the Year Ending December 31, 1944

Name of Library	Stoneham Public Library
Town and State	Stoneham, Massachusetts
Name of Librarian	Martha A. Jackson
Date of Founding	1859
Population Served (U. S. Census 1940)	10,765
Assessed Valuation	$14,625,300
Terms of use: Free to residents of Stoneham, teachers in the schools, persons employed in town, or guests in town.	
Number of days Library was open during the year	301
Number of volumes at beginning of year	26,019
Number of volumes added by purchase	894
Number of volumes added by gift	84
Number of volumes added by binding	2
Circulation per capita	13.29
Number of new borrowers registered during the year	419
Total number of borrowers registered	6,699

Circulation Statistics 1944

Adult Fiction	56,902
Adult Non-Fiction	18,549
Juvenile Fiction	56,390

Juvenile Non-Fiction	11,288
Foreign Books	117
Pictures	670
Clippings	27
Maps	36
Total Circulation	143,979

Respectfully submitted,
MARTHA A. JACKSON, Librarian.

Appropriations and Expenditures

Appropriations

Town Appropriations	$8,925.00
Received from Funds	1,377.49
Unexpended	86.15
Net Amount Expended	10,216.34

Expenditures

Salaries, Librarian and Assistants	$5,109.85
Janitors	1,299.84
Books	1,511.19
Periodicals	214.85
Binding	295.39
Stationery	86.25
Telephone	80.71
Repairs	184.61
Miscellaneous Building Expenses	3.26
Fuel	700.76
Lighting	373.79
Miscellaneous	355.84
	$10,216.34